

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): A nude mouse model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, wherein said mouse ~~[[is characterized by having]]~~ has histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size transplanted onto an organ of said mouse which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

has sufficient immuno-deficiency to allow said transplanted neoplastic tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to ~~[[and]]~~ mimic the progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in ~~[[the human donor]]~~ humans.

2. (currently amended): A nude mouse model according to claim 1 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue ~~[[or]]~~ and pleural tissue.

3. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 2 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

4. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 3 wherein said human neoplastic breast tissue is implanted in the mammary fat pad of the mouse.

5. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 2 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

6. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 5 wherein said human neoplastic ovarian tissue is implanted in the ovarian capsule of the mouse.

7. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 5 wherein said human neoplastic ovarian tissue is transplanted by securing to the surface of the mouse ovary at least two pieces of neoplastic tissue in close proximity to each other.

8. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 2 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

9. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 8 wherein said neoplastic tissue is implanted in the parietal pleura of the mouse.

10. (original): A nude mouse model according to claim 9 wherein said neoplastic tissue is implanted in the visceral pleura of the mouse.

11. (currently amended): A method of generating a nude mouse model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, said method comprising:
transplanting histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size transplanted onto an organ of a nude mouse which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

allowing said transplanted tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as ~~[[and]]~~ to mimic progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in ~~[[the human donor]]~~ humans.

12. (currently amended): A method of generating a nude mouse according to claim 11 wherein said human neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue ~~[[or]]~~ and pleural tissue.

13. (new): A nude rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, wherein said rodent has histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size transplanted onto an organ of said rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

has sufficient immuno-deficiency to allow said transplanted neoplastic tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic the progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

14. (new): The nude rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 13, wherein said rodent is a rat.

15. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, wherein said rodent has histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size transplanted onto an organ of said rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and has sufficient immuno-deficiency to allow said transplanted neoplastic tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic the progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

16. (new): The immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 15, wherein said rodent is a rat.

17. (new): The immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 15, wherein said rodent is a mouse.

18. (new): The immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 17, wherein said rodent is a severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mouse.

19. (new): A method of generating a nude rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, said method comprising:
transplanting histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size onto an organ of a nude rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and
allowing said transplanted tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

20. (new): The method of generating a nude rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 19, wherein said rodent is a rat.

21. (new): A method of generating an immunodeficient rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, said method comprising:

transplanting histologically intact human neoplastic tissue of at least 1 mm³ in size onto an organ of an immunodeficient rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

allowing said transplanted tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

22. (new): The method of generating an immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 21, wherein said rodent is a rat.

23. (new): The method of generating an immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 21, wherein said rodent is a mouse.

24. (new): The method of generating an immunodeficient rodent model for human neoplastic disease of claim 23, wherein said rodent is a severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mouse.

25. (new): A nude rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, wherein said rodent has histologically intact human neoplastic tissue transplanted onto an organ of said rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

has sufficient immuno-deficiency to allow said transplanted neoplastic tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic the progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

26. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model for progression of human neoplastic disease, the progression of said disease being characterized by growth of a primary tumor site and metastasis to secondary tumor sites, wherein said rodent has histologically intact human neoplastic tissue transplanted onto an organ of said rodent which corresponds to the human organ from which said tissue is originally obtained; and

has sufficient immuno-deficiency to allow said transplanted neoplastic tissue to grow at said primary site and metastasize to said secondary tumor sites, so as to mimic the progression of the neoplastic disease including the metastatic behavior of said neoplastic disease in humans.

27. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 13 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

28. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 27 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

29. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 27 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

30. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 27 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

31. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 15 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

32. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 31 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

33. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 31 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

34. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 31 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

35. (new): The method according to claim 19 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

36. (new): The method according to claim 35 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

37. (new): The method according to claim 35 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

38. (new): The method according to claim 35 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

39. (new): The method according to claim 21 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

40. (new): The method according to claim 39 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

41. (new): The method according to claim 39 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

42. (new): The method according to claim 39 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

43. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 25 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

44. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 43 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

45. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 43 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

46. (new): A nude rodent model according to claim 43 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.

47. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 26 wherein said neoplastic tissue is selected from breast tissue, ovarian tissue or pleural tissue.

48. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 47 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human breast tissue.

49. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 47 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human ovarian tissue.

50. (new): An immunodeficient rodent model according to claim 47 wherein said neoplastic tissue is obtained from human pleural tissue.